THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, Government of India have received the report of the Committee on the Tea Industry in West Bengal which includes a recommendation of 100% mandatory sale of made tea other than exports and packet tea through auction system.

(c) There are divergent views on this matter and the issue is under examination.

Export Promotion Councils

1171. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the administrative and financial powers vested with the Panel Chairman's/Sub-Committee of various Export Promotion Councils for carrying out activities leading to growth of exports; and

(b) if no such powers have been given how Government justify democratic functioning of the Export Promotion Councils?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The articles/bye-laws adopted by the Export Promotion Councils, on the basis of model articles/bye-laws circulated by the Government, provide for formation of a Committee of Administration for each Council with Administrative and financial powers, among others. This Committee may, from time to time, constitute Panels/Sub-Committees to perform such functions as the Committee may lay down. Model articles/bye-laws do not provide for vesting of any administrative and financial powers with the Chairman of the Panel/Sub-Committee.

(b) Various provisions incorporated in the model articles/bye-laws like, voting rights of the members, procedure and meetings of the Councils/ Committees justify the democratic functioning of the Export Promotion Councils.

Affairs of SEEPZ

1172. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had visited Santacruz Electronics Export Promotion Zone (SEEPZ) in Mumbai recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether he was approached by some Members of Christian community regarding a 400 years old church situated in the SEEPZ vicinity; and

(d) if so, his response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Minister of Commerce and Industry visited the SEEPZ Special Economic Zone, Mumbai on 16th July, 2004 to discuss the issues relating to exports from the Zone with representatives of the trade and industry.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Minister assured the community representatives that their problems would be suitably addressed.

WTO Meet in Paris

1173. SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some important Member States of the WTO had a meeting in Paris in July, 2004 to resolve the deadlock in the WTO talks on agriculture;

(b) if so, the proposal made by India at the meet and response of USA and the European Union thereto; and

(c) the progress made in the talks for preparation of the framework agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Brazil and India represented the G-20 group of like-minded countries on agriculture during this meeting, and presented the proposals of the G-20 towards developing a framework on agriculture that, *inter alia*, ensure that trade-distorting domestic subsidies provided to their farm sector largely by the developed countries are substantially reduced, their export subsidies eliminated, and market access opportunities for products of export interest to developing countries improve substantially. Moreover, consistent with the Doha mandate to negotiate on agriculture, any additional commitments, particularly in market access, by developing countries like India should serve to safeguard their food and livelihood security concerns and rural development needs.

(c) On 1st August, 2004, a Framework for Establishing Modalities in Agriculture has been agreed to by consensus in the meeting of the General Council of the WTO. The Framework duly addresses India's concerns.